programmes of rural development on a sharing basis. In all 1.85 lakh additional classrooms have been constructed by States/UTs. The scheme of Operation Blackboard has been subsumed in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan from the Tenth Five Year Plan.

There is no scheme called 'Education for All' being implemented by this Ministry. However, to realize the goals of Education for All, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a national programme for uninversalization of elementary education has been launched with the objective of providing satisfactory quality education for all children in the age group 6—14 by 2010. The Scheme envisages preparation of District Elementary Education Plan (DEEP) by the States, reflecting community based habitation and village level planning. During 2001-02 a sum of Rs. 1106.26 crore have been approved for District Elementary Education Plans.

Similarly, to achieve the goal to Education for All, the National Literacy Mission (NLM) seeks to impart functional literacy to non-literate in the 15—35 age group. The objective is to attain a sustainable threshold level of 75 per cent literacy by 2005. The number of persons made literate till December 31, 2001 under all scheme of NLM is 9.66 crores. According to information received from the States, for the period 1996-97 to 2000-2001, 60 per cent of those made literate were women, 21.23 per cent were scheduled castes and 11.79 per cent were scheduled tribes. The total number of districts covered under the literacy programmes are 576. The effect of these programmes is evident from the fact that in the Census of 2001 the absolute number of illiterate persons has for the first time been reduced by 3.19 crores over a period of 10 years.

**Deaths due to pesticide exposure**

*745. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in The Times of India of 29th April, 2002, that 500 farmers died of pesticide exposure in AP and 1000 were exposed to related health hazards;

(b) if so, the details of the case;

(c) whether this case has been given to a fact finding team, if so, the details of terms of reference;

(d) whether there were similar incident earlier in AP or other States, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether cases of deformed babies and gynaecological problems in women have also been reported in Warangal district?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, a few incidents of hospitalization were reported on account of repeated use of high doses and improper methods of spraying of pesticides under high temperature. These cases might have happened due to over exposure particularly due to non-observance of safety measures by farmers/ farm labourers and sprays being undertaken during hot periods of the day.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) some deaths due to pesticides poisoning have been reported from a few other State also as shown in the Statement. (*See* below)

(e) No, Sir.

***Statement***

*The number of deaths due to pesticides poisoning (State-wise) during 2000-2001.*

| Sl. No. | Name of States/U.T. | Number of deaths |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 07 |
| 2. | Haryana | 25 |
| 3. | Himachal Pradesh | 32 |
| 4. | Kerala | 598 |
| 5. | Maharashtra | 486 |
| 6. | Pondicherry | 98 |
| 7. | Punjab | 53 |
| 8. | Rajasthan | 291 |
| 9. | Tamil Nadu | 48 |
| TOTAL | No. of Poisioning Cases | 1638 |

NOTE: Other States have either not reported the figures or there were no deaths.